RE. SUSPENSION OF QUESTION HOUR

श्री अमर सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, हमने नोटिस दिया है ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति : माननीय सदस्यों, आप वेल में मत आइए ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप वेल में मत आइए ...**(व्यवधान)**... आपको जो कहना है, अपनी जगह से कहिए ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप अपनी जगह से बोलिए ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप वेल में मत आइए, आपको जो कहना है, अपनी जगह से कहिए ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप अपनी जगह वापस जाइए ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप अपनी जगह वापस जाइए ...**(व्यवधान)**...

The House is adjourned for fifteen minutes.

The House then adjourned at two minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House re-assembled at seventeen minutes past eleven of the clock.

[MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 21 ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal) : Sir, we want withdrawal of the Ordinance, Sir ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just one minute ...*(Interruptions)*... One minute, please ...*(Interruptions)*... Please listen to the Chair ...*(Interruptions)*... Please listen to the Chair. ...*(Interruptions)*... देखिए, आप बैठ जाइए ...**(व्यवधान)**... मुझे कुछ कहने दीजिए, आप बैठ जाइए ...**(व्यवधान)**... देखिए, आप मुझे बोलने दीजिए ...**(व्यवधान)**... दो मिनट, पहले मुझे बोलने दीजिए ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप बैठ जाइए ...**(व्यवधान)**... जरा आप बैठ जाइए, पहले दो मिनट मुझे बोलने दीजिए। Hon. Members, I have received a notice from the hon. Leader of the Opposition suggesting that the Question Hour be suspended. As you know, we have already listed this particular item for a Short Duration Discussion, and therefore, the Chair does not feel the need to suspend the Question Hour, which is the normal business of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Let him submit what he wants to say...

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will take it up at the appropriate time, not at the time of the Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please wait for a minute. ...*(Interruptions)*... Just one minute, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... The House is adjourned till 12 o'clock.

The House then adjourned at nineteen minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House re-assembled at twelve of the clock,

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.]

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Effecting ban on Endosulfan

†*22. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(a) whether it is a fact that the pesticide Endosulfan is banned in 62 countries and a demand is being made for several years to ban this in India too;

(b) whether it is also a fact that several hormonal and re-productivity related defects are developing due to this pesticide;

(c) whether it is also a fact that it was extensively used in tea gardens before 2003 due to which people suffered with fatal diseases;

(d) if so, the reasons for not banning such type of dangerous pesticide in India; and

(e) by when a ban would be put on it?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) As per information available, Endosulfan has been banned in about 60 countries and is being used in about 40 countries, including India. Demand for banning it has been made occasionally.

(b) and (c) Government had constituted a committee comprising experts in September 2004 under the Chairmanship of Dr. C.D. Mayee, the then Agriculture Commissioner and Chairman of Registration Committee to:

(i) examine the various reports/findings/recommendations of the previous committees on Endosulfan in order to assess the safety in regard to public health; and

(ii) make recommendations regarding the future use of Endosulfan.

The Committee, after considering all factors and available reports, recommended that the use of Endosulfan be continued as per provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968. Endosulfan has been approved for use in tea in the country, but no adverse effects have been reported.

(d) and (e) As stated in reply to parts (b) and (c), based on recommendations of the committee comprising experts, use of Endosulfan is continued as per provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968. However, Government of Kerala has been requested to institute an epidemiological study in the cashew plantation areas in the State on reports of illness in certain villages. Pending finalization of the study, as a precautionary measure, and on the recommendations of the Committee, the use of Endosulfan has been kept on hold in Kerala *vide* Notification No. S.O. 1874(E) dated 31.10.2006.

Financial assistance to drought affected States

*23. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the wake of drought in major parts of the country, the food subsidy extended by the Central Government to States, has risen to Rs. 61,000 crores from Rs. 42,000 crores in 2008-09;